From: Larry (038) Sandy Bancroft

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 1/3/02 8:50pm

Subject: overzelous greed!?

All we heard for years is how Microsoft created unfair competition. Now, we seem to have governments that aren't happy with the results. Maybe we need to check out what is driving them. It seems to me that the states & the federal government can't get enough corporate dollars that consumers pay for. The Tobacco & Microsoft settlement for instance, has shown state governments that if they tie-up corporate America in the courts long enough they will get free dollars. In Illinois the state in 2000 sent out refund checks to tax payers from the tobacco settlement. Small as they were, the state said not to worry we have plenty more dollars coming from the settlement. Of course the money was spent faster than it was coming in now we have budget short falls. Yes not all of our budget blunders could have been foreseen but the point is that money was for smoking related illness that the state will be stuck with in the years to come. But then again who pays corporate America? No the consumer. Now is the time to say to all states & the usdoj. sign on to the Microsoft settlement are be left out in the cold without a dime. Microsoft has offered a fair settlement to all but some never seem happy. Don't get me wrong it's just not the states that aren't happy many inefficiently run companies are just as unhappy. They want more in the way of free handouts too. America was built on hard work by both cooperate & labor. The freedom to take an idea make it work & be so revolutionary in a industry is the American dream. Take the settlement with all the perks just let Microsoft have the ability to continue innovate. For that matter let all companies have the right to innovate.

Sincerely Larry Bancroft Shareholder

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